

Middle Potomac Tributary Team

January 15, 2003

About the Watershed:

The Middle Potomac Watershed drains approximately 610 miles of land across portions of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Major tributaries in the watershed include the Anacostia River and Seneca, Rock and Piscataway Creeks. The watershed is highly urbanized with more than 100 species of fish living in its freshwater and brackish water streams, including white and yellow perch, largemouth bass, and catfish. Due to the watershed's urbanized character, the Middle Potomac Tributary Team focuses on environmental policy issues directed at restoring and reducing the impacts of urbanization on the watershed and its tributaries.

About the Team:

The mission of the Middle Potomac Tributary Team is to reduce nutrient and sediment inputs and to restore habitat in the Middle Potomac Watershed through community participation. The primary focus of the team in 2002 was the revision of the Tributary Strategies, particularly wastewater, urban stormwater, agriculture, and outreach and education aspects. The team's



The Middle Potomac Team's 2002 Farm Tour gave participants an opportunity to learn about agricultural nutrient reduction practices.



perspective is that even though load allocations are not officially set, there are numerous areas where the Tributary Teams can make policy recommendations and help frame the issues regarding the format and content of the revised Tributary Strategies.

Topics that the team expects to address in 2003 include load allocations and associated equity issues, implementation of the strategies and funding possibilities, reconciliation of the voluntary Tributary Strategies process with the regulatory total maximum daily load (TMDL) permitting process, and the non-water quality aspects of the Tributary Strategies that Maryland may wish to include (i.e., forest cover and wetland goals).

Recent Accomplishments:

- * On December 3, 2001, team members participated in the signing of the Builders for the Bay Agreement, which was also signed by the National Association of Home Builders, the Center for Watershed Protection, and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.
- * In 2002, the Middle Potomac Tributary Team worked with Maryland's Tributary Strategies Development Workgroup to revise the Tributary Strategies. The team used several of its monthly meetings to prepare periodic recommendations to the workgroup on technical and policy matters.

- ✱ Team members planted a rain garden in March 2002 with the Potomac Conservancy and the Audubon Naturalist Society to educate Chevy Chase homeowners about native landscaping.
- ✱ On Earth Day 2002, the team coordinated an Anacostia River Clean-Up to educate and engage local citizens and elected officials in the restoration of their river.
- ✱ The team helped plan and facilitate the first Potomac Shared Strategies Conference in November 2002. Representatives from the four states that make up the Potomac Watershed attended this conference and participated in a highly productive discussion about interstate solutions to improving water quality in the Potomac River.

For More Information:

For more information, contact Claudia Donegan, team coordinator, at 410-260-8768. You can also visit the program's website at www.dnr.state.md.us/bay/tribstrat/.



The Middle Potomac Team's Annual Fish-In, held during the month of June, helps engage local citizens in the restoration and protection of their local watershed.

Team Members

Edward "Ted" Graham, Chair, Washington Council of Governments
 Carlton Haywood, Vice-Chair, ICPRB
 Steve Bieber, State Contact, MD Dept. of the Environment
 Richard Alper, Citizen
 Nazir Baig, Maryland NCPPC, Montgomery County
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 Collin Burrell, D.C. Dept. of Health/ Env. Admin.
 Mow-Soung Cheng, Prince George's County
 Gary Felton, University of Maryland
 Stephen Hannibal-Lockley, Citizen
 Cy Jones, Wash. Suburban Sanitary Commission
 Bill Kennedy, MD National Capital Bldg Industry
 David Lake, Montgomery Dept. of Environmental Protection
 George Lechliden, Maryland Farm Bureau
 Ed Merrifield, Sierra Club
 Matt Mulder, Acokeek Foundation
 Daniel Nees, University of Maryland, Environmental Finance Center
 Marshall Rea, Montgomery Soil Conservation District
 Pamela Rowe, City of Rockville
 Greg Ryberg, City of Gaithersburg
 Steve Shofar, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission
 J.G. Warfield, US Dept. of Agriculture
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Team Participants

Matt Berres, Potomac Conservancy
 Chris Chopin, Environmental Quality Resources
 John Clarke, Elm Street Development
 Cynthia Hannibal, Citizen
 Honorable John Hurson, MD House of Delegates
 Ron LaCoss, Citizen
 Steve Nardella, Winchester Homes
 David Plummer, MD Dept. of Natural Resources
 Dr. Linda Silversmith, Citizen
 Bill Spicer, Naval Surface Warfare Center
 Megan Turnock, Citizen
 Mark Zerniak, Citizen

Team Coordinator

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